

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USSS-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 OPR-02 A-01
VO-05 CA-01 MCT-01 INSE-00 PA-01 INRE-00 SYE-00
/052 W

-----091598 160550Z /11

O 151718Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9543

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 4537

SY/CC PASS MASTROVITO USSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE THREAT AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER - PANAMA

REF: A) PANAMA 3454, B) STATE 131212

1. RSO RECEIVED CALL AT HOME FROM MARINE GUARD AT
EMBASSY 1905 HOURS, 14 JUNE. MSG STATED SUBJECT,
SPEAKING ENGLISH WITH BRITISH ACCENT, CALLED THE
EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER CLOSING HOURS AND WANTED TO
TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN PANAMA
DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON 16 JUNE.
MSG ADVISED THAT SUBJECT WOULD NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF,
BUT GAVE SKETCHY INFORMATION ABOUT "SOMETHING HAPPEN-
ING" IN PANAMA ON 16 JUNE THAT MAY HURT RELATIONS
BETWEEN GOP AND THE USG. MSG FURTHER RELATED THAT
THE SUBJECT HUNG UP BUT PROMISED TO CALL BACK WITHIN
AN HOUR. RSO ADVISED MSG TO GIVE SUBJECT RSO'S HOME
PHONE WHEN HE CALLED BACK. SUBJECT CALLED MSG BACK
AT 2035 HOURS AND WAS GIVEN RSO'S HOME PHONE.

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2. SUBJECT CALLED RSO AT 2040 HOURS AND BEGAN RELAT-
ING THE SAME DETAILS RSO HAD ALREADY HEARD FROM MSG.
SUBJECT STATED THAT HE WANTED TO MEET RSO RATHER
THAN DISCUSS MATTERS BY PHONE. RSO, HESITANT TO
MEET SUBJECT WITHOUT ANY SOUND INFORMATION, ATTEMPTED
TO ASCERTAIN IDENTITY OF SUBJECT. SUBJECT MERELY
REPLIED THAT HE WAS A PANAMANIAN AND HIS SURNAME WAS

"ARIAS." RSO AGREED TO MEET SUBJECT ALONE AT 2115 IN SUBURB OF SANTIAGO.

3. SUBJECT MET RSO AT AGREED UPON LOCATION AT DESIGNATED TIME, BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY HIMSELF OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT HE WAS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE "ARIAS FAMILY" AND THAT PEOPLE REFERRED TO HIM AS THE "PLAYBOY" OF THE FAMILY. WHETHER SUBJECT IS A DIRECT RELATIVE TO ARNUFO ARIAS, EX-PRESIDENT OF PANAMA IS UNKNOWN, BUT SUBJECT REFERRED TO THE EX-PRESIDENT BY HIS FIRST NAME. SUBJECT'S PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION FOLLOWS:

- BLACK MEDIUM LENGTH HAIR COMBED BACK.

- BROWN EYES.

- WIRE-RIMMED GLASSES (THICK LENSES).

- SLENDER BUILD, 140-150 POUNDS.

- 5'9"-10"

- THIN OVAL FACE, POINTED NOSE.

- 30-33 YEARS OLD.

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- SPOKE EXCELLENT ENGLISH, BUT WAS LEARNED OBVIOUSLY FROM BRITISH TUTORS.

4. SUBJECT RELATED INITIALLY THAT HE WAS APOLITICAL BY NATURE ("NOT LIKE THE REST OF MY FAMILY"), BUT HIS CONSCIENCE MADE HIM CALL THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BECAUSE HE FELT, THROUGH INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED, THAT "SOMEONE MIGHT DO SOMETHING FOOLISH" IN PANAMA AT THE PLAZA CINCO DE MAYO DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S SHORT VISIT THERE. SUBJECT MENTIONED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE AT THE PLAZA FOR ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES ON 16 JUNE.

5. RSO ASKED SUBJECT WHAT INFORMATION LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS IN PANAMA DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. SUBJECT REPLIED THAT ARNUFO ARIAS HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO PANAMA AND HIS PRESENCE ALONE WOULD CAUSE MORE UNIFICATION AMONG THE GOP OPPOSITION; HE (SUBJECT) HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF "MESSAGES" AND PHONE CALLS FROM PANAMANIAN ASSOCIATED WITH A GROUP CALLED "ARNUFO PANAMENISTAS"

THAT 16 JUNE WAS THE DAY THAT ALL GOP OPPOSITION SHOULD

NOTE: SY CHANNEL REMOVED PER MR. CALDWELL SY

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(ISO) W

-----032695 232119Z /21

O 151718Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9544

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 4537

SY/CC PASS MASTROVITO USSS

BE UNITED IN PANAMA (SUBJECT ADDED THAT, AT ONE TIME, HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE "ARNUFO PANAMANISTAS" BUT NO LONGER); AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS, THELMA KING (SEE REFTELS) HAD CONTACTED HIM AND ASKED THAT HE RETURN TO PANAMA STRONGLY INSINUATING THAT SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN ON 16 JUNE. SUBJECT ADVISED THAT KING'S CONTACT WORRIED HIM BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT SHE WAS A RADICAL INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD SOUGHT COMMUNIST BACKING IN PREVIOUS YEAR (RUSSIAN) FOR HER ANTI-GOP MOVEMENT. SUBJECT ADDED THAT KING HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE RUSSIANS, BUT THAT SHE MADE A TRIP TO THE PRC TO SOLICIT SUPPORT.

6. SUBJECT'S BASIC CONCERN IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS MAY ATTEMPT TO USE A GULLIBLE "ZONIAN" OF THE GOP OPPOSITION TO EMBARRASS THE GOP DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. HE IS WORRIED THAT IF THE OPPOSITION, NOW "SUPPOSEDLY" CONSOLIDATED BY THE UNION OF THE "ARNUFO-PANAMANISTAS" AND THE "REPUBLICANS," DOES SOMETHING DRASTIC, THEIR POSITION WILL SUFFER ALONG
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WITH THE GOP AND THE USG. SUBJECT REVEALED THAT BOTH THESE GROUPS WERE COMPRISED MAINLY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. SUBJECT FELT THAT AN ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S LIFE WAS A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY BUT HE HAD NO HARD FACTS TO SUBSTANTIATE SUCH A THREAT. ON THE ROAD GOING TO OR THE ROAD FROM THE PLAZA (THE PLAZA CINCO DE MAYO) WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY PLACE ON THE ATTEMPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE. HE ADDED THAT GOP SECURITY FORCES SELDOM DO ROUTE ADVANCES BEFORE THE ROUTES ARE TRAVELED. SUBJECT EXPRESSED A "HOPE" THAT THE GOP OPPOSITION WAS NOT GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO BE "USED" BY THE COMMUNISTS, BUT WITH THELMA KING'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ARNUFO-PANAMANISTAS THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE OPPOSITION MAY TAKE DRASTIC ACTION. SUBJECT STATED THAT A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION AT THE AIRPORT AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL COULD BE EXPECTED.

7. SUBJECT REVEALED THAT HE WAS AFRAID TO CALL "TONY" NORIEGA (PANAMANIAN INTELLIGENCE) WITH THE INFORMATION BECAUSE OF THE CHANCE OF THE CONVERSATION BEING INTERCEPTED.

8. RSO AND SUBJECT SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT SUBJECT'S PERSONAL LIFE. RSO FOUND THAT SUBJECT WAS AN AMATEUR "ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGIST" AND THAT HE DID A LOT OF TRAVELING IN SEARCH OF EVIDENCE. HE IMPLIED THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN PANAMA, BUT DID NOT SAY WHERE HE WAS LIVING. SUBJECT WAS HESITANT TO TALK ABOUT "HIS FAMILY" BUT STATED THAT RONALD REAGAN HAD MET WITH ARNUFO ARIAS TO DISCUSS OPPOSITION ALTERNATIVES TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.

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9. RSO ENDED CONVERSATION WITH SUBJECT AT 2215 HOURS AND DROVE HIM TO A LOCATION WHERE HE COULD TAKE A TAXI TO HIS HOTEL IN SANTIAGO (HOTEL NEVER NAMED). SUBJECT AGREED TO CALL THE RSO AT 0830 HOURS 15 JUNE IN ORDER TO RELATE ANY DETAILS OR HARD EVIDENCE HE COULD REMEMBER ABOUT THE GOP OPPOSITION'S PLANS FOR 16 JUNE. SUBJECT CALLED RSO AT DESIGNATED TIME AND RELATED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUT SAID HE WOULD MAKE A COUPLE OF PHONE CALLS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HE ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE PLANS TO RETURN TO PANAMA BEFORE 16 JUNE.

LANDAU

NOTE: SY CHANNEL REMOVED PER MR. CALDWELL SY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Executive Order: RR
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Film Number: n/a
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From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780652/aaaabtgc.tel
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Office: ACTION SY
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 2329255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE THREAT AGAINST PRESIDENT CARTER - PANAMA
TAGS: ASEC
To: SECSTATE WASHDC PANAMA
Type: TE
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